Remarks

Claims 1-39 are pending herein. By this Amendment, the specification and claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 13-15 and 19 have been amended; and new claims 23-39 have been added.

The specification has been amended to capitalize the trademark "Bakelite" and to accompany the trademark with the "®" mark and generic terminology.

Claims 2, 13 and 14 have been amended to add a period at the end of each claim.

Claim 2 has been further amended to delete the two occurrences at lines 4-5 and 9-10 the phrase "such as formaldehyde, acetaldehyde, fural, benzaldehyde, or any other aliphatic or aromatic aldehyde". New claim 23 has been added to include the subject matter deleted from claim 2.

In addition, claim 2 has been amended to refer to the aldehyde used in the formation of the first polymer as --a first aliphatic or aromatic aldehyde--, and to refer to the aldehyde used in the formation of the second polymer as --a second aliphatic or aromatic aldehyde--.

Claim 5 has been amended at line 2 to delete the term "preferably" and to change "form" to --from--.

Claim 3 has been amended to delete the recitation "more preferably in the range from 4,000 to 40,000, and most preferably in the range from 7,000 to 20,000" at lines 2-3 and the recitation "more preferably in the range from 400 to 10,000, and most preferably in the range from 600 to 4,000" at lines 4-5. New claim 24 has been added to recite the more preferred molecular weight ranges deleted from claim 3. New claim 25 has been added to recite the most preferred molecular weight ranges deleted from claim 3.

Claim 6 has been amended to add the recitation --wherein the onium salt has an anion--.

Claims 13 and 14 have been amended to change the recitations "polyphenolic polymer" and "polyhydric polymer" to --first polymer-- and --second polymer--, respectively. Support for these recitations can be found, e.g., in claim 2.

Claim 13 has been further amended to clarify that the composition therein is either in the write-the-background mode or in the write-the-image mode.

Claim 14 has been further amended to delete reference to the Composition B and Composition B' formulations. New claim 26 has been added which is the same as claim 14 except that the new claim recites the Composition B and Composition B' formulations rather than the Composition A and Composition A' formulations.

Claim 15 has been amended to recite steps involved in the claimed process. Support for the recitations are found in claim 15 itself.

Claim 19 has been amended so that it is now in independent form.

New claims 27-39 have been added which depend from claim 19. Support for claims 27-39 can be found, e.g., in claims 2-14.

In the Office Action, claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, and under 35 U.S.C. §101; claims 2, 13 and 14 are objected to; claims 1, 2, 4-12, 15-18 and 20-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,786,125 to Tsuchiya et al. ("Tsuchiya"); claims 1-4, 6, 7, 10-13, 15-18 and 20-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,042,987 to Kobayashi; claims 3, 13 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Tsuchiya; and claims 8 and 14 are rejected under §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kobayashi. Claim 19 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In addition, the Examiner states that the trademark "Bakelite" should be capitalized wherever it appears and be accompanied by the generic terminology.

In view of the amendments and remarks herein, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections and rejections set forth in the Office Action.

I. Rejection of Claim 15 Under 35 U.S.C. §112 and 35 U.S.C. §101

Claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants

regard as the invention. According to the Office Action, claim 15 is indefinite because it does not set forth steps involved in the claimed process.

In addition, claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 because the claimed recitation of a use, without setting forth any steps involved in the process, is said to result in an improper definition of a process.

By this Amendment, claim 15 has been amended to recite steps involved in the claimed process. Applicants respectfully submit that claim 15, as amended herein, is not indefinite under §112, second paragraph, or improper under §101.

II. Objection to Claims 2, 13 and 14

Claims 2, 13 and 14 are objected to because they do not contain a period at the end. These claims have been amended herein to correct this informality.

III. Rejection of Claims 1, 2, 4-12, 15-18 and 20-22 Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 1, 2, 4-12, 15-18 and 20-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Tsuchiya.

Tsuchiya is cited for disclosing the preparation of a positive light sensitive lithographic printing plate. The substrate is an aluminum plate which has been textured and anodized. The plate is coated with a coating solution and dried to form a primer layer, and a light sensitive layer is then coated on the primer layer and dried to a weight of 2 g/m^2. The light sensitive layer comprises (1) a carbon black dispersion, (2) bisphenol A formaldehyde resol resin, (3) m-cresol-formaldehyde novolak resin, (4) an acid precursor, (5) a surfactant and (6) a solvent.

According to the Examiner, the use of bisphenol A formaldehyde resol resin and m-cresol formaldehyde novolak resin meets the limitations of Applicants' claimed dual polymer binder system wherein bisphenol A formaldehyde resol resin is the second product which is the product of bisphenol A and an aldehyde and m-cresol-formaldehyde novolak resin is the first polymer which is the product of m-cresol and an aldehyde. The Examiner states that acid precursor (III-2) disclosed in Tsuchiya's Example 1 meets the

limitations of the claimed iodonium salt having a hexafluorophosphate as set forth in instant claim 9. In addition, the Examiner states that acid precursors (I-2) and (II-2) disclosed in Tsuchiya's Examples 3 and 5 meet the limitations of a dye derived from the oxazolyl class as set forth in instant claim 5.

Example 1 in Tsuchiya is also cited for teaching the application of a silicon rubber layer over the light sensitive layer and the lamination with a stretched polypropylene film to obtain a light sensitive lithographic printing plate. The resulting plate is then exposed with a YAG laser, the laminated film is pressed off, and the plate is heated and then developed.

Applicants respectfully submit that instant claims 1, 2, 4-12, 15-18 and 20-22 are not anticipated by Tsuchiya.

Applicants' claimed invention uses a dual polymer system, an infrared absorbing compound, an acid-generating compound, and, optionally, a stabilizing acid, all in combination to produce a coating responsive to radiation stimulation, particularly in the near infrared region of the electromagnetic spectrum. In the dual polymer system, the first polymer is a condensation product of monohydroxy aromatic compounds, and the second polymer is a condensation product of polyhydroxy aromatic compounds. These compounds are capable of crosslinking with each other under a proper set of conditions. Fragments of the irradiated infrared absorbing compounds as well as the acid subsequently generated cause the crosslinking to occur.

Tsuchiya teaches the use of a novolak resin, a resole, an infrared absorbing compound and an acid-generating compound, and further teaches such use as the first of a two coating system. Resoles are a specific class of polymers or polymer precursors. In Applicants' claimed invention, the second polymer of the dual polymer system is much broader than resoles. The second polymer covers polyhydric aromatic compounds, independent of the methods used to produce them, i.e., acid versus base condensation. The resoles in Tsuchiya may only be derived by base condensation. Tsuchiya fails to recognize the utility of the broader group of additional polyhydric compounds.

Furthermore, Tsuchiya teaches the use of two coatings to produce a two layer lithographic plate that is useful for a form of non-conventional printing, wherein the use of a fountain solution is not required. Reference is made, for example, to column 2, lines 5-12, of Tsuchiya. The light sensitive layer is specifically designed to be compatible with the overcoat of a solvent soluble silicon based polymer system. It is the overcoat that enables the fountain solution to be eliminated.

Applicants' claimed lithographic printing plate in claim 16 and process for printing or image development of claims 17, 18 and 20-22 use a single coating system for conventional lithographic printing, meaning that a fountain solution is used in a balanced process with the ink. Applicants' coating system and Tsuchiya's two-coating system are not analogous. It is not evident from the teachings of Tsuchiya that the compositions described therein would perform suitably if used in a conventional manner. Applicants respectfully submit that one skilled in the art could not conclude that Tsuchiya's compositions would perform acceptably nor in comparison to the mode of usage of Applicants' invention if used as a single coating.

Therefore, Applicants submit that there are at least two critical distinctions between Tsuchiya's teachings and Applicants' claimed invention: (1) the use of resoles in Tsuchiya versus the use of polyhydric aromatic compounds, and (2) the use of non-analogous compounding of the technologies as well as non-analogous application of the resulting products. Thus, for at least these reasons, Applicants submit that claims 1, 2, 4-12, 15-18 and 20-22 are not anticipated by Tsuchiya.

IV. Rejection of Claims 1-4, 6, 7, 10-13, 15-18 and 20-22 Under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

Claims 1-4, 6, 7, 10-13, 15-18 and 20-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Kobayashi.

Kobayashi is cited for teaching a negative type image recording material, which is capable of effecting direct plate making. Examples 6-8 are said to exemplify three kinds of solutions [D-1] to [D-3] which differ in the kind of organic base. These solutions were coated on aluminum plates, which were textured and anodized, the weight of each coating

being 1.8 g/m^2. The solutions contain diphenyliodonium trifluoromethanesulfonate as the acid generating compound, infrared absorbing agent NK-2014 which is a cyanine dye, novolak resin obtained from cresol and formaldehyde having a molecular weight of 5800, a resol resin obtained from bisphenol A and formaldehyde having a molecular weight of 1600, an organic base from Table 3, a surfactant and two solvents. The coated plates are exposed to IR rays, treated by heating at 120°C, developed and rinsed.

According to the Examiner, the resol resin taught in Kobayashi meets the limitations of the claimed second polymer (polyhydric) and that the taught novolak meets the limitation of the claimed first polymer (polyphenolic). In addition, the Examiner states that the solutions, which contain about 6% acid generator, 4% infrared absorbing compound, 45% novolak, 41% resol, based on solid components, all fall within the range of the write the image mode of instant claim 13.

Examples 16-18 in Kobayashi are cited and described in the Office Action as for disclosing three solutions [I-1] to [I-3] which differed in the kind of amino acid compound. These solutions were coated on aluminum plates, which were textured and anodized, the weight of each coating being 1.8 g/m^2. The solutions contain diphenyliodonium trifluoromethanesulfonate as the acid generating compound, infrared absorbing agent NK-2014 which is a cyanine dye, novolak resin obtained from cresol and formaldehyde having a molecular weight of 5800, a resol resin obtained from bisphenol A and formaldehyde having a molecular weight of 1600, an amino acid from Table 8, a surfactant and two solvents. The coated plates were exposed to IR rays, treated by heating at 120°C, developed and rinsed.

According to the Examiner, the resol resin disclosed in Kobayashi meets the limitations of the claimed second polymer (polyhydric), the taught novolak meets the limitation of the claimed first polymer (polyphenolic), and the amino acid meets the limitation of a stabilizing acid. The nicotinic acid is an aromatic carboxylic acid as set forth in instant claims 10 and 11. The solutions contain about 6% acid generator, 4% infrared absorbing compound, 46% novolak, 41% resol and 0.3% acid based on solid

components, all of which are said to fall within the range of the write the image mode of instant claim 13.

Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-4, 6, 7, 10-13, 15-18 and 20-22 are not anticipated by Kobayashi.

Kobayashi teaches the combination of a compound which is degraded by the action of light, a crosslinking agent which crosslinks in the presence of an acid, at least one alkali-soluble resin, an infrared absorbing agent, and an organic basic compound or at least one compound selected from amino acids and derivatives thereof.

Kobayashi requires the presence of an amino acid or derivative thereof, whereas Applicants' claimed invention does not require an amino acid or derivative thereof. Moreover, Kobayashi requires that an acid compound, not a basic compound or an amphoteric compound, be used to stabilize the coating composition therein.

Furthermore, Kobayashi's crosslinking resins are resoles. As discussed herein in connection with the rejection based on Tsuchiya, Applicants' claimed invention uses polyhydric aromatic compounds that are condensation products which are independent from the means of synthesis.

Thus, for at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that claims 1-4, 6, 7, 10-13, 15-18 and 20-22 are not anticipated by Kobayashi.

V. Rejection of Claims 3, 13 and 14 Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 3, 13 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Tsuchiya as applied to claims 1, 2, 4, 6-12, 15-18 and 20-22 above. According to the Office Action, Tsuchiya teaches all of the limitations of the claims except for the explicit details pertaining to the molecular weight of the taught resol and novolak resins. However, the Examiner states that the resins fall within the scope of the claimed polymers and, therefore, one skilled in the art would expect that the molecular weights would fall within the broad range of instant claim 3.

Applicants submit that claims 3, 13 and 14 would not have been obvious over Tsuchiya.

Claims 3 and 13 depend upon claim 1, and claim 14 depends upon claim 3. As noted above in connection with the §102 rejection based on Tsuchiya, there are at least two critical distinctions between Tsuchiya's teachings and Applicants' claimed invention set forth in claim 1: (1) the use of resoles in Tsuchiya versus the use of polyhydric aromatic compounds, and (2) the use of non-analogous compounding of the technologies as well as non-analogous application of the resulting products. Applicants submit that because Tsuchiya does not teach the features of claim 1, the reference would not have made it obvious to use the limitations set forth in claims 3, 13 and 14. Thus, for at least these reasons, Applicants submit that Tsuchiya would not have made instant claims 3, 13 and 14 obvious.

VI. Rejection of Claims 8 and 14 Under §103(a)

Claims 8 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kobayashi as applied to claims 1-4, 6, 7, 10-13, 15-18 and 20-22 above. Claims 8 and 14 depend indirectly from claim 1 and include the limitations set forth therein. Applicants submit that because Tsuchiya does not teach the features of claim 1, the reference would not have made it obvious to use the limitations set forth in claims 3, 13 and 14. Thus, for at least these reasons, Applicants submit that Tsuchiya would not have made instant claims 3, 13 and 14 obvious.

VII. Objection to Claim 19

Claim 19 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

By this Amendment, claim 19 has been amended so that it is now an independent claim.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that claim 19, and claims 27-39, are in allowable form.

VIII. The Specification

The Examiner states that the trademark "Bakelite" should be capitalized wherever it appears and be accompanied by the generic terminology. The specification has been amended in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion.

IX. Conclusion

In view of the remarks and amendments herein, Applicants respectfully request that the objections and rejections set forth in the Office Action be withdrawn and that claims 1-26 be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,

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Listing of Claims

Claim 1 (Original): A radiation sensitive composition, wherein the composition comprises: 1) a dual polymer binder system, 2) an infrared absorbing compound, 3) an acid generating compound and, optionally, 4) a stabilizing acid.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): A composition according to claim 1, wherein the dual polymer binder system comprises a first polymer comprised of a condensation product of phenol, o-chlorophenol, o-, m- or p-cresol, p-hydroxy benzoic acid, 2-naphthol or other monohydroxy aromatic monomer with ~~an~~ a first aliphatic or aromatic aldehyde ~~such as formaldehyde, acetaldehyde, fural, benzaldehyde, or any other aliphatic or aromatic aldehyde~~;

and a second polymer comprised of the condensation product of catechol, resorcinol, hydroquinone, bisphenol A, bisphenol B, trihydroxybenzene, or other di- or polyhydroxy aromatic compound, and methylolated analogs thereof, with ~~an~~ a second aliphatic or aromatic aldehyde ~~such as formaldehyde, acetaldehyde, fural, benzaldehyde, or any other aliphatic or aromatic aldehyde~~.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): A composition according to claim 1, wherein the first polymer has a molecular weight in the range from 2,000 to 80,000~~, more preferably in the range from 4,000 to 40,000, and most preferably in the range from 7,000 to 20,000~~; and the second polymer has a molecular weight in the range from 150 to 15,000~~, more~~

~~preferably in the range from 400 to 10,000, and most preferably in the range from 600 to 4,000~~.

Claim 4 (Original): A composition according to claim 1, wherein the infrared absorbing compound is a dye or insoluble material such as carbon black.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): A composition according to claim 1, wherein the infrared absorbing compound is ~~preferably~~ comprised of dyes derived ~~form~~ from classes including pyridyl, quinolinyl, benzoxazolyl, thiazolyl, benzothiazolyl, oxazolyl and selenazolyl.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): A composition according to claim 5, wherein the acid generating compound is an onium salt, wherein the onium salt has an anion.

Claim 7 (Original): A composition according to claim 6, wherein the onium salt comprises sulfonium, sulfoxonium, arsonium, iodonium, diazonium, bromonium, selenonium and phosphonium.

Claim 8 (Original): A composition according to claim 6, wherein the anion, which determines the released free acid, includes chloride, bisulfate, hexafluoroantimonate, hexafluorophosphate, tetrafluoroborate, methane sulfonate and mesitylene sulfonate.

Claim 9 (Original): A composition according to claim 6, wherein the onium salt is diphenyliodonium hexafluorophosphate or 3-methoxy-4-diazodiphenylamine hexafluorophosphate.

Claim 10 (Original): A composition according to claim 1, wherein the stabilizing acid is a carboxylic acid.

Claim 11 (Original): A composition according to claim 10, wherein the stabilizing acid is an aromatic carboxylic acid.

Claim 12 (Original): A composition according to claim 11, wherein the stabilizing acid is a benzoic acid or a substitute thereof or a naphthoic acid or a substitute thereof.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): A composition according to claim 1, wherein the composition is either in a ~~it comprises the use as in the~~ write-the-background mode ~~and as~~ or in a ~~the~~ write-the-image mode, wherein the write-the-background mode comprises the following formulation:

~~1. Write-the-background mode~~

dual polymer binder,

* ~~polyphenolic~~ first polymer	50 – 95%
* ~~polyhydric~~ second polymer	5.0 – 40%
infrared absorber	0.1 – 12%
acid generator	0.1 – 10%

stabilizing acid ~~(optional)~~	0.1 – 10%.

and further wherein the write-the-image mode comprises the following formulation:

~~2. Write-the-image mode~~

Dual polymer binder,	
* ~~polyphenolic~~ first polymer	5 – 95%
* ~~polyhydric~~ second polymer	10-90%
infrared absorber	0.1 – 12%
acid generator	0.1% - 15%
stabilizing acid ~~(optional)~~	0.1-10%.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): A composition according to claim 13, wherein ~~it comprises the use as in the write-the-background mode and as in the write-the-image mode~~ the write-the-background mode has formulation 1A and the write-the-image mode has formulation 2A:

1A. Write-the-background mode

	~~COMPOSITION A~~	~~COMPOSITION B~~
Dual polymer binder,		
* ~~polyphenolic~~ first polymer	50-90%	~~60-95%~~
* ~~polyhydric~~ second polymer	5-35%	~~10-40%~~
infrared absorber	0.5-12%	~~0.1-10%~~
acid generator	0.5-12%	~~0.1-10%~~
stabilizing acid	0.1-10%	~~0.1-10%~~

2A. Write-the-image mode

	~~COMPOSITION A'~~	~~COMPOSITION B'~~
Dual polymer binder,		
* ~~polyphenolic~~ first polymer	5-90%	~~60-95%~~
* ~~polyhydric~~ second polymer	40-90%	~~10-40%~~
infrared absorber	0.5-12%	~~0.1-10%~~
acid generator	1.0-15%	~~0.1-10%~~
stabilizing acid	0.1-10%.	~~0.1-10%~~

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): The use of a radiation sensitive composition as defined in claim 1, comprising coating a substrate with the composition, the substrate being selected from the group consisting of ~~wherein it is used for coating substrates, particularly~~ lithographic printing plates, ~~and in~~ color proofing films ~~or photoresist applications~~ and photoresists.

Claim 16 (Original): A lithographic printing plate, wherein it comprises a coating prepared from a composition according to claim 1.

Claim 17 (Original): A process for printing or image development, wherein said process comprises the use of a composition as defined in claim 1, for forming a coating upon a support and developing an image from the support coated with said composition.

Claim 18 (Original): A process according to claim 17, wherein it is applied to a lithographic printing plate and said plate is subjected to a heat treatment after imaging and prior to development.

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): A process for printing or image development, wherein said process comprises the use of a composition comprising: 1) a dual polymer binder system, 2) an infrared absorbing compound, 3) an acid generating compound and, optionally, 4) a stabilizing acid, for forming a coating upon a lithographic printing plate and developing an image from the plate coated with said composition, wherein ~~Process according to Claim 17, wherein it is applied to a lithographic printing plate and~~ said plate is subjected to cure after development.

Claim 20 (Original): Process according to claim 17, wherein the composition is dissolved in an appropriate solvent system.

Claim 21 (Original): Process according to claim 17, wherein the composition is applied to provide a coating having dry weight in the range from 1.5 g/m^2 to 3.0 g/m^2.

Claim 22 (Original): Process according to claim 17, wherein the composition is applied to provide a coating on a textured and anodized aluminum substrate or on a polyester substrate.

Claim 23 (New): A composition according to claim 2, wherein the first and second aldehydes are each selected from the group consisting of formaldehyde, acetaldehyde, fural and benzaldehyde.

Claim 24 (New): A composition according to claim 3, wherein the first polymer has a molecular weight in the range of from 4000 to 40,000, and the second polymer has a molecular weight in the range of from 400 to 10,000.

Claim 25 (New): A composition according to claim 3, wherein the first polymer has a molecular weight in the range of from 7000 to 20,000, and the second polymer has a molecular weight in the range of from 600 to 4000.

Claim 26 (New): A composition according to claim 13, wherein the write-the-background mode has formulation 1A and the write-the-image mode has formulation 2A:

1A. Write-the-background mode

Dual polymer binder,	
* first polymer	60-95%
* second polymer	10-40%
infrared absorber	0.1-10%
acid generator	0.1-10%
stabilizing acid	0.1-10%

2A. Write-the-image mode

Dual polymer binder,

* first polymer	60-95%
* second polymer	10-40%
infrared absorber	0.1-10%
acid generator	0.1-10%
stabilizing acid	0.1-10%

Claim 27 (New): A process according to claim 19, wherein the composition comprises a dual polymer binder system comprises a first polymer comprised of a condensation product of phenol, o-chlorophenol, o-, m- or p-cresol, p-hydroxy benzoic acid, 2-naphthol or other monohydroxy aromatic monomer with a first aliphatic or aromatic aldehyde;

and a second polymer comprised of the condensation product of catechol, resorcinol, hydroquinone, bisphenol A, bisphenol B, trihydroxybenzene, or other di- or polyhydroxy aromatic compound, and methylolated analogs thereof, with a second aliphatic or aromatic aldehyde.

Claim 28 (New): A process according to claim 27, wherein the first polymer has a molecular weight in the range from 2,000 to 80,000; and the second polymer has a molecular weight in the range from 150 to 15,000.

Claim 29 (New): A process according to claim 19, wherein the infrared absorbing compound in said composition is a dye or insoluble material such as carbon black.

Claim 30 (New): A process according to claim 29, wherein the infrared absorbing compound is comprised of dyes derived from classes including pyridyl, quinolinyl, benzoxazolyl, thiazolyl, benzothiazolyl, oxazolyl and selenazolyl.

Claim 31 (New): A process according to claim 19, wherein the acid generating compound in said composition is an onium salt, wherein the onium salt has an anion.

Claim 32 (New): A process according to claim 31, wherein the onium salt comprises sulfonium, sulfoxonium, arsonium, iodonium, diazonium, bromonium, selenonium and phosphonium.

Claim 33 (New): A process according to claim 31, wherein the anion, which determines the released free acid, includes chloride, bisulfate, hexafluoroantimonate, hexafluorophosphate, tetrafluoroborate, methane sulfonate and mesitylene sulfonate.

Claim 34 (New): A process according to claim 31, wherein the onium salt is diphenyliodonium hexafluorophosphate or 3-methoxy-4-diazodiphenylamine hexafluorophosphate.

Claim 35 (New): A process according to claim 19, wherein the stabilizing acid in the composition is a carboxylic acid.

Claim 36 (New): A process according to claim 35, wherein the stabilizing acid is an aromatic carboxylic acid.

Claim 37 (New): A process according to claim 36, wherein the stabilizing acid is a benzoic acid or a substitute thereof or a naphthoic acid or a substitute thereof.

Claim 38 (New): A process according to claim 19, wherein the composition is either in a write-the-background mode or in a write-the-image mode, wherein the write-the-background mode comprises the following formulation:

dual polymer binder,	
* first polymer	50 – 95%
* second polymer	5.0 – 40%
infrared absorber	0.1 – 12%
acid generator	0.1 – 10%
stabilizing acid	0.1 – 10%,

further wherein the write-the-image mode comprising the following formulation:

Dual polymer binder,	
* first polymer	5 – 95%
* second polymer	10-90%
infrared absorber	0.1 – 12%

acid generator	0.1% - 15%
stabilizing acid	0.1-10%.

Claim 39 (New): A process according to claim 38, wherein the write-the-background mode has formulation 1A and the write-the-image mode has formulation 2A:

1A. Write-the-background mode

Dual polymer binder,

* first polymer	50-90%
* second polymer	5-35%
infrared absorber	0.5-12%
acid generator	0.5-12%
stabilizing acid	0.1-10%

2A. Write-the-image mode

Dual polymer binder,

* first polymer	5-90%
* second polymer	40-90%
infrared absorber	0.5-12%
acid generator	1.0-15%
stabilizing acid	0.1-10%.